

Dear Senators and Representatives of Connecticut,

As a life-long resident of CT and a retired teacher of 33 years in CT schools, I am appalled at the possible elimination of the Even Start Program. I am currently teaching in the Middletown Adult Education ESL classes for 15 hours a week. I have 12 students, 6 of whom are recipients of the services that Even Start has to offer. Without this service, these very capable students would have to stay home with their children and lose the opportunity to move forward with their learning. Programs like Even Start are necessary if we want to increase our job force with capable workers, who happen to be parents, as well.

As you know, Even Start has been accredited by NAEYC, uses wrap around services to enhance parenting skills for the at-risk population and has been a pioneer and state model for two generations.

Please put Even Start back in the Governor's budget. It is vital. It is necessary, and it is the right thing to do.

Thank you very much.

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